

NOW READY

THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY OF CHINA, JAPAN, STRAITS, &c., &c., 1899.

With which is incorporated THE CHINA DIRECTORY.

This is the

THIRTIETH ANNUAL ISSUE

and will be found, as usual, to contain

the most complete and accurate

information of the

ports and cities of the Far East, from Peking to

Aden, and from the North to the South.

Not only is the Directory a full and complete

in each case as it can be had, but each

Port or Settlement is provided with a

DESCRIPTION, carefully prepared by a

writer, giving a full and complete

description of the place, its

history, its position, its

climate, its population, its

commerce, its industries, its

products, its exports, its

imports, its shipping, its

navigation, its railways, its

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INTIMATIONS.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

Established A.D. 1841.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

ALL these are selected by our London House bought direct at first hand, imported in wood and bottled by ourselves, thus saving all intermediate profits, and enabling us to supply the best goods at moderate prices.

PRICE LISTS, with full details, to be had on Application.

PORT after removal should be rested a month before use. When required for drinking at once it should be ordered to be decanted at the Dispensary before being sent out.

SHE-RY—Excellent Dinner and After Dinner Wines of very superior Vintage. All are true Xeres Wines.

CLARET—Our Claret, including the lowest priced, are guaranteed to be the genuine product of the vine of the grape and are not artificially made from raisins and currants, as is generally the case with Cheap Wines.

BRANDY—All our Brandy is guaranteed to be pure Cognac, the difference in price being merely a question of age and vintage.

WHISKY—All our Whisky is of excellent quality and of greater age than most brands in the market. The Scotch Whisky marked "E" is universally popular, and is pronounced by the best connoisseurs to be superior to any other brand in the Hongkong market.

We only guarantee our Wines and Spirits to be genuine when bought direct from us in the Colony or from our authorized Agents at the Coast Ports.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 10th January, 1898.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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Correspondents are requested to forward their names and addresses with communications addressed to the Dispensary, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

No anonymous correspondence will be accepted.

Orders for extra copies of the Dispensary should be sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication.

After that time the supply is limited. Only supplied for cash.

Telegraphic Address: Press. Telephone No. 12.

At 5, Thibet Road, Shanghai, on the 21st of Jan., the Shanghai Gas Company, aged 40 years.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, FEBRUARY 6th, 1895.

Another principal act in the drama of the war between China and Japan is now being acted—indeed it has not already been consummated—at Weihaiwei. That port was, at last, virtually in the hands of the Japanese. All the forts on the mainland are in their possession, and they were bombarding the fortified island of Lungkow, which forms one of the strongest defences of the port. The Peiyang Squadron, as we expected, was still in Weihaiwei, the report that the vessels had escaped, mentioned by Reuters, having proved unfounded. Some stand was made by the Chinese at Weihaiwei, probably due to the crews of the gun-boat, and some of the guns of the fort were fired, but the result was not long delayed, the combined attack by land and sea being too severe for the Chinese effectively to withstand. The result seems to have been very unfavourable for operations on the water, as there was a strong gale on the 3rd inst., and that probably retarded the movements of the Japanese ships. No doubt this gale would considerably impede their movements, and may well have been disastrous to the torpedo boats. Nevertheless the ultimate success of the Japanese attack could hardly be doubted. The Chinese garrison are reported to have been defeated of case-shot or shrapnel, and it is rumoured that the greater part of the military were emulous of the example of the discreet generals at Port Arthur, who showed such anxiety to be preserved in order to fight again another day. The crews of the Peiyang Squadron had an opportunity of distinguishing themselves, and it will be interesting to learn actually how they utilized it.

Meantime the war is going on steadily in Manchuria, and the reports concerning operations there are of the most various character. The Chinese assert—and this is undoubtedly true to the thought—that the Japanese troops are suffering horribly from the rigours of the winter. One report states that no less than one thousand of the Japanese have died from cold, disease, and suicide in a fortnight, and their sufferings are depicted as being so unendurable that the bodies of thirty-seven soldiers who had put a period to their miseries were found in a group by a detachment of Mongol cavalry scouting among the hills to the east of Haicheng. If one else believes these stories, the Imperial War Commissioner Wu Ta-cheng seems to give them full credit, for he has issued a proclamation to the Japanese soldiers, in which after setting forth his own great resources—fifty battalions of armed coolies—to show the utter hopelessness of contending with so

mighty a host, and an insubstantial commander, he appeals to them to cease making their bodies a target for Chinese bullets and invites them to desert from their commanders and seek shelter, rations, and safety in his camp. "If," says the article, "you Japanese soldiers 'should be defeated and have no place to run away to, wherever you should see my signal-boards bearing the words 'Surrender and avoid death' you may at once present yourselves to the officers in charge, who are also delegated to the duty on account of their reputation for 'charity and justice; you must then throw down your arms and prostrate yourselves before the signal. You will then be received into our encampments and given two meals a day and exactly the same treatment as our own people. You will not be put to hard labour, and when peace is restored you will be sent back to your homes to meet your wives and kind ones once more." This charming picture of Chinese clemency and benevolence is in such vivid contrast to the actual treatment accorded to those Japanese who have been so unfortunate as to fall into the hands of Chinese Generals hitherto that the Japanese soldiers may be pardoned if they treat Commissioner Wu's assurances with mild incredulity. The fate of Japanese prisoners has commonly been torture first and dismemberment subsequently, and the dreadful fate of some of their countrymen at Port Arthur must still rather vividly in the recollection of the soldiers of the First Army Corps in Manchuria. We make the mistake of treating the Japanese soldiers as he would his own troops. He fails to credit the Japanese with any loyalty or patriotism because those sentiments are unknown in the Chinese ranks. But there will be no desertions from the ranks of the Japanese. They may be conscript soldiers, but they have a strong love of country, deep devotion to the Mikado, and the habit of obedience to their officers, the result of good training and discipline. And, as a matter of fact, the Japanese armies are in a far better case than the troops under Wu Ta-cheng. They are provided with ample supplies of food and clothing, including thick wadded coats, and, if as is possible, there is some scarcity of food among them and they do feel the cold somewhat severely they are certainly not in the perilous condition described by the Chinese reports. Moreover, they have established themselves in such positions in Manchuria as to be complete masters of the situation there. Haicheng has been fortified in such a manner, taking advantage of its favourable situation, as to be virtually impregnable to attack, and the other positions held by the Japanese have also been secured, while the inhabitants of the surrounding districts have been coerced by the respect paid by the invaders to the rights of property and to the persons of the vanquished, a policy contrasting so favourably with the course pursued by the undisciplined rabble hosts of the Chinese army that the advent of the strangers, has in many cases been hailed as a welcome deliverance from the plundering Chinese "brave."

The collapse of the peace negotiations in their inception is hardly more than might have been anticipated. We were never sanguine of their success, and have pointed out some of the possible stumbling blocks in the way. The Japanese Government, knowing the character of the Chinese for treachery and bad faith, would naturally require the fullest assurances of the powers of the Emperors before they entered upon negotiations with them. To judge from the report telegraphed by Reuters, their credentials were not found satisfactory, and the Emperors seem to have been summarily dismissed, and are now on their return to China. The Emperors themselves were probably not regarded with any great favour in Japan, neither by rank nor by reputation were they likely to command any particular respect. Siao Yu-lin, more especially, as the author of the first proclamation offering rewards for Japanese heads, could not expect to meet a very cordial reception in the capital of Japan. Before any proposals for a settlement of the quarrel are likely to meet with much approval in Japan, the Japanese Government will require to be pretty well satisfied of the sincerity of the Chinese in desiring peace. After the somewhat humiliating manner in which the Chinese Emperors were sent packing it is probable that no immediate attempt will be made by either party to renew peace negotiations, and it is not unlikely that the Japanese Government, feeling indisposed to be drawn into any armistice, are satisfied to let matters drift until the Chinese are ready to sue for peace on such terms as the victors may dictate. Long ago we expressed the opinion that any negotiations preliminary to the occupation of Peking by the Japanese would fail, and there seems little reason to alter that opinion. The Chinese officials are not yet sufficiently convinced of the hopelessness of the conflict (vide Wu Ta-cheng's proclamation to the Japanese soldiers) to be ready to treat as the defeated party, and the Japanese will not abate their demands sufficiently to render them acceptable to Peking. The hostilities will therefore proceed, notwithstanding the loss of Weihaiwei and all control over the coast. The conviction of the futility of further efforts will only penetrate the minds of the mandarins when internal disorder, and possible revolution, confronts them. The fulfilment of Peking merely might fail to sufficiently impress them, and it may be necessary to carry the war to the central provinces or even to Kwangtung before Celestial civilization gives way. It is, however, to be hoped most sincerely that the war will not be greatly prolonged, for not only does it militate against trade but it also serves to arrest all progress and development.

The Australian Lloyd's steamer *Maria Valeria* left Kobe for this port via Moji on Sunday, the 3rd inst.

The recent Chinese loan for £2,000,000, lodged in London by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, was issued at 96.

The P. M. steamer *Pera*, with mails, &c., left San Francisco for this port via Yokohama and Nagasaki on the 2nd inst.

Mr. Wodehouse, Police Magistrate, yesterday issued a writ of £10 on four defendants who were charged with using indecent language.

The O. & O. steamer *Osaka*, with mails, &c., which left Kobe on the 3rd inst. for San Francisco via Nagasaki, Kobe, and Yokohama, arrived at her destination on the 1st inst.

The N. D. L. steamer *Prinz Heinrich*, left Colombo on the 2nd inst. for London, and may be expected here on or about Saturday, the 10th inst.

The *Mercury* learns that the Japanese have notified their authorities that they will not consider foreigners captured in active service with the Chinese as prisoners of war, but that they will be treated as *extradites*.

At the Marine Magistrate's Court yesterday, before Commr. Ruxton, two seamen named Robert Sheppard and W. J. Richardson, of the British ship *Albatross*, were charged by Captain Johnson with having absented themselves from duty without leave on the 4th inst. The prisoners were sent to goal for fourteen days with hard labour.

It is reported that of the thirty odd native banks of large capital doing business in Shanghai during the past month of the year, only one, the Shanghai Commercial Bank, has been able to maintain its position during the past month of the year.

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knowing that to be the weakest spot in the defence, but as the position had been greatly strengthened by quick firing and machine-guns, the Japanese were not able to make any progress. The Japanese were not able to make any progress. The Japanese were not able to make any progress.

On Sunday, the 25th, the Japanese made a demonstration from the eastward, but finding the Chinese fully prepared they retired after a short firing. Chinese official despatches via Chiofou dated the 26th, give the following particulars of the attack on Weihaiwei by the Japanese fleet:

The enemy attempted to force the entrance of the harbour with a fleet of sixteen large ships. The attack began at about 6 o'clock on the morning of New Year's day (26th January), but was not successful.

On the same morning, New Year's day, at a quarter past 10 o'clock, the land forces of the enemy, composed of 12,000 men, were observed by our outposts and videttes stationed to watch the main road leading to Chiofou on the north and south sides of the mouth.

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HONGKONG FIDE TABLE

Rank	Name	Score
1	W. J. H. H.	100
2	W. J. H. H.	95
3	W. J. H. H.	90

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE

Commodity	Price
Bank of China	100
Bank of India	100
Bank of Japan	100

SHIPPING REPORTS

Ship	Destination	Agent
British steamer	Shanghai	...
British steamer	Shanghai	...

SHANGHAI SHIPPING

Ship	Destination	Agent
British steamer	Shanghai	...
British steamer	Shanghai	...

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE, LONDON

Commodity	Price
...	...
...	...

SCOTTISH METROPOLITAN ASSURANCE CO.

Commodity	Price
...	...
...	...

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED

Commodity	Price
...	...
...	...

THE MEIJI FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED

Commodity	Price
...	...
...	...

THE HONGKONG FREE PRESS

Commodity	Price
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THE HONGKONG FREE PRESS

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THE HONGKONG FREE PRESS

Commodity	Price
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HONGKONG SAVINGS BANK

THE HONGKONG SAVINGS BANK is conducted by the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION. It is a public company, and its capital is £1,000,000.

THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA

THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA is a public company, and its capital is £1,000,000. It is a public company, and its capital is £1,000,000.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA

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HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION

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THE HONGKONG FREE PRESS

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WELLING HOUSES

WELLING HOUSES are available for rent. They are located in the city and are suitable for business or residential use.

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NOTICES TO CONSIGNEES

OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

CONSIGNEES per Company's Steamer

"MYRMIDON,"
having arrived from the above ports, Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed at their risk into the Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, at Kowloon, where delivery may be obtained. No claims will be admitted after the 11th inst. unless the Goods are examined before that date. No Fire Insurance has been effected.

HONGKONG, 14th February, 1895.

DODWELL, CARLILL & CO., Agents.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamship

"KALANAY,"

FROM BOMBAY, COLOMBO AND

THE STRAITS.

Consignees of Cargo by the above named Vessel are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed at their risk into the Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, at Kowloon, where delivery may be obtained. No claims will be admitted after the 11th inst. unless the Goods are examined before that date. No Fire Insurance has been effected.

HONGKONG, 14th February, 1895.

DODWELL, CARLILL & CO., Agents.

FROM HAMBURG, PENANG AND

SINGAPORE.

THE Steamship

"HERTHA,"

FROM HAMBURG, PENANG AND

SINGAPORE.

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FROM HAMBURG, PENANG AND

SINGAPORE.

VESSLS ON THE BERTH

FOR HAMBURG, HAMBURG AND

ANTWERP.

THE Steamship

"MAGNETIC,"

FOR HAMBURG, HAMBURG AND

ANTWERP.

THE Steamship

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